

**Neighborhood Development Grants Program
2011 Neighborhood Development Project Application**

NG3

deadline: noon, 12/17/10, City Hall, CEDO offices, 149 Church Street
attn: Jenny Davis, 865-7172, jdavis@ci.burlington.vt.us

Ward: 2 / 3

Contact Person(s):

- 1) Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro
- 2) Josh Eichen
- 3) Trina Zide

Mailing Address:

City Hall, 149 Church St.
Burlington, VT 05401

Project Name: Burlington Skateboarding Park

Project Location/Address: Moran Plan Redevelopment Project, Burlington's Waterfront

This Grant Request \$ 5000.00

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Steering Committee Signature(s):

City Department Signature(s)

Department: _____ Signature: _____

Department _____ Signature: _____

1. What is your project? What do you hope to accomplish? Please be specific:

To relocate and renovate Burlington's Waterfront Skateboarding Park to make it a larger, state-of-the-art, concrete facility.

Burlington's existing skate park has been located on the Waterfront North and Moran project site for a decade. The Moran Plant skate park has been popular since it opened and has seen tremendous growth in use over time by all age groups, including middle-aged adults. The skate park is often attended by families, providing a generational experience when a parent teaches his or her child the sport they grew up with. The Parks Department has indicated that the current skate park facilities are experiencing deterioration due to use and age of materials (wood and metal), while the demand since its inception has steadily grown. Allocating a proper amount of space for the skate park is not a matter of luxury, but of safety.

2. What particular neighborhood need or problem will the project address? How was it identified? Is it part of or coordinated with a larger municipal plan? How will it benefit low-moderate income residents?

The current facility was completed in 2001. It is primarily made of wood and steel. The existing skate park was created nearly 10 years ago with materials that were the standard at that time, however these materials have experienced heavy use and Vermont weather making the current structures of the skate park unsuitable for continued use. It presents and perpetuates blight on the Waterfront.

The construction of this facility at this location will provide unique programming opportunities for the broader community: multi-aged classes for the inexperienced, for at risk youth, girls-only, and families are just a few examples.

3. How will the project improve the neighborhood? Please be specific:

This project will improve the neighborhood by replacing a worn out and crumbling facility that is contributing to blight with a new high quality free recreation facility that is easily accessible from the neighborhood. The project is also creating a facility that is inherently preventative in that it provides a safe, very public space for our youth to be together and recreate. Skateboarding is a healthy alternative to what could otherwise be more destructive activity. There is a cultural appeal of a skate park to youth who often are not attracted to other, more traditional/organized sports.



4. Who will the project benefit? How will it specifically benefit people living in poverty?

As a new public facility, the redeveloped Moran plant will serve the entire city. However, the project is located in the city's Renewal Community (census tracts 3, 4, and 5 and block group 1 of census tract 10) includes the city's Old North End, the most densely populated and impoverished neighborhood in Vermont. Historically the city's working class neighborhood, the Old North End has also become home to an increasingly diverse group of refugees and immigrants. It is identified in the city's Consolidated Plan as a high-poverty area, and is part of the city's HUD-approved Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area.

According to the 2000 Census, the poverty rate for the Renewal Community was 31.4%, more than 2.4 times the 2000 national rate. Additionally, at the two elementary schools nearest to the proposed new skate park over 92% of students receive free or reduced lunch.

The American Community Survey 2006-2008 data shows that in Burlington females age 16 -19 have an 11% unemployment rate and for males age 16 -19 have a 36% unemployment rate. Having a high quality free recreation facility so close by will make a big impact on these young people.

5. Is there clear community support for the project? How has it been demonstrated?

There is clear community support for this project. Burlington's existing skate park has been located on the Burlington's waterfront for a decade. Its original and current location was the subject of over a decade of public involvement, commencing in the 1980's. The City considered sites all over its jurisdiction and held public meetings on each location. All other locations were reviewed and rejected for various reasons. Ultimately, the Waterfront location was selected as only suitable site because it was centrally located and adjacent to the Burlington Bike Path, a critical factor for many young people who do not have access to cars or cannot drive. Finally, this prominent central location adjacent to Waterfront Park was specifically chosen by the City Council to avoid increasing the sense of marginalization already being felt by a significant portion of Burlington's youth.

The current skate park has been popular since it opened and has seen tremendous growth in use over time by all age groups, including adults. The skate park is often attended by families, providing a generational experience when a parent teaches his or her child the sport they grew up with. As early as 2006, Burlington's Parks and Recreation Department realized that there was a growing need for a better expanded skateboarding facility on the Waterfront. The inclusion of an expanded skate park adjacent to the Moran Center is a reflection of this popularity.

There is a long history of public support for the redevelopment of the waterfront which includes this expanded recreational facility. More recently, overwhelming public support for the construction of the new skate park has been expressed through a series of public meetings. This is evidenced by the 60 person turnout for the first organizing meeting in April. On June 20 Burlington held its first *Skateboarding Day* to raise awareness about the need for a new skate park with over 100 people attending. The Skate Park Advisory Committee set up the Burlington, VT Skatepark Redevelopment Facebook page (1250 friends) <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Burlington-VT-Skatepark-Redevelopment/117886231576123>, and is currently working on fundraising for the new skate park. This was followed up in July by the 50+ community members who participated in a design workshop with skate park designer, Grindline.

6. How will the project leverage matching dollars, volunteer commitments or other community resources? What, specifically, are those commitments?

These CDBG dollars will leverage other grant funding, private fundraising and volunteer hours by the Skate Park Advisory Committee for construction of the skate park. The City already received a grant it is using for the design, estimates and construction documents of \$42,000. The project managers have received a grant from the Tony Hawk foundation for \$10,000 and are waiting word on the Pepsi Refresh project for \$25,000 (pending).

The Skate Park Advisory Committee has launched a "Buy a Brick" campaign to support the construction of the new skate park and has a goal of \$15,000 for this effort.

7. Who will carry out the project? How will they be accountable to the neighborhood?

There are several entities that will carry out this project: Burlington's Public Works, Burlington's Parks and Recreation Dept., Community and Economic Development Office, and the Waterfront Skate Park Committee. The project will be accountable to the neighborhood through the numerous public forums around this structure as well as the accountability involved in creating a public facility.

8. What is the timeline for completing the project (funding is available no earlier than 7/1/11 through 6/30/13)? What City departments will be involved in the project? Have those departments been consulted about the project?

Fundraising (grants and private donations) December 2010- July 2011

This project has already received all necessary permits and construction will occur between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

The City Departments involved in the project include CEDO, Public Works and Parks and Recreation. All three city Departments have been actively involved in working with the community on the new skate park.

9. How will the project will be sustained / maintained over the long term?

The new expanded concrete skate park will be a public facility and part of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for the regular maintenance of this facility.

Additionally concrete was chosen as the primary material for the new skate park. Concrete has become the new standard for skate parks due to the durability, reduced maintenance costs, ability to provide dynamic features and the smooth continuity of a seamless park that other materials cannot provide.

10. Line Item Budget: Show how you plan to pay for this project.

Detail all items and services you will need to implement this project. Show the estimated cost of each, and list at least two sources for each estimate (please use Burlington-based businesses where possible).

Item / Service (*small bowl with a set of stairs and a rail*) Cost Estimate = \$55,000

materials \$ 39,600

labor \$ 15,400

TOTAL FOR SMALL BOWL: \$55,000

The Skate Park Committee has secured the following funds:

Tony Hawk Grant \$10,000

Pending: Pepsi Refresh \$25,000

On-going Fundraising Campaigns: \$15,000

Total Budget for this Project (add all lines) \$ 55,000

Total value of all in-kind services and donations \$ 50,000

Total amount of Grant Request \$ 5000